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Church Anniversary 51st; 1985-09-29

Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastoral Greetings

Once again we come to the Anniversary of our Church. This year marks the 51st year of our Church History.

I greet you with much joy and pride, as well as Thanksgiving. Looking back over the distance we have come, fond memories linger with us of persons, places, and things which are now a part of our history.

The founders of our Church are few in numbers at the present, but we have a great crowd of silent witnesses, watching us along the way. We bless the memories of those who have done their jobs, finished their course, and are now waiting for us to join them in that Higher life and broader field of service.

I greet those new members who have stepped into the frontline of service in our Church. I also encourage those who join us to take full advantage of your rights and privileges, to serve the Lord in spirit and in truth.

I am proud to have been a part of Pilgrim Baptist Church for the last twenty-two years. May God bless everyone of you, and keep our Church on the frontline of Christian Service.

Reverend R. David Holloway, Pastor

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Eleven o'clock a.m.

- Mistress of Ceremonies Mrs. Eula Boyd
Musicians Paul Echols, Martha Swink
Processional Choirs, Official Board, Deaconesses
"We Feel Like Going On"
Devotion Deacons and Deaconesses
Scripture: Matthew 16: 13 - 19 Mrs. Mary Hall
Prayer Deacon Lorenzo Coleman
Congregational Hymn "A Charge To Keep I Have"
Devotional Message The Church
Mrs. Beatrice Holloway Church Covenant
Mr. Isaac Pearson
Selection Combined Choirs
"Jesus Is All The World To Me"
Benevolent Offertory Rev. Andrea Washington
Salutation. Mr. Timothy Hull
Selection Combined Choirs
Memorial Expression
Rev. R.D. Holloway
Solo Ms. Charise Simpson
Offertory Deacons
Selection Campfield Singers
Sermon Hymn Dr. Watt Choir
Sermon. Rev. R.D. Holloway
Invitation to Discipleship
Remarks and Benediction
Recessional "We Feel Like Going On"

The History of Pilgrim Baptist Church

One of the basic gifts of a civilization is its history and records of past events and the changes and progress of human civilization.

The spring of 1934 began a new adventure for those who left the fellowship of The Friendship Baptist Church, pastored by the late Reverend Twillis Davis.

Unlike some slaves of long ago who had to get a written consent from their masters to attend meetings, this small group of trusted men and women met at the request of the late Mr. Willie Gibson, at the home of the late Mr. Cleveland Allen, 222 Jefferson Avenue to discuss the forming of a Mission Group. The group was organized with the late Mr. Cleveland as chairman.

A special meeting was called to select a name. Several names were submitted, but the name "Pilgrim Baptist", submitted by the late Mrs. Rosa Poole was voted upon and accepted.

A ministerial committee composed of the late Reverends B.C. McCarley, N.B. Harris and J.B. Benton worked with the Mission Group and successfully organized the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

September 19, 1934 at 278 Jefferson Avenue a "Reality" was realized. Pilgrim selected its first officers.

The late Reverend R.D. Harris was acting pastor. The late Mr. O.C. Madkins, chairman of the Deacon Board, the late Mr. Willie Gibson, chairman of the Trustee Board, Mr. Zenobia Alexander, church clerk, the late Mrs. Frances Moore, financial secretary, Mr. Luther Watts, treasurer, the late Mrs. Bessie Lytell, building fund treasurer, and the late Mr. James Ingram as poor saint treasurer.

We take a look at distinguished ministers and former pastors.

Since 1934 Pilgrim has had many qualified and brilliant leaders who were both preachers and pastors, builders of membership, stately churches, and organizers of christian organizations.

From 1934 through 1984, the pulpit of this church has been filled respectively by the following ministers, other than the acting pastor already mentioned:

Reverend Hosea Pickney, the first pastor who served for eighteen months at 488 Jefferson Avenue, Henry B. Shaw, the second pastor for many sought a new locale at 214 Clinton Street because of growing enrollment and many auxiliaries were organized: The number One and Two Choirs, The White Rose Club, The Red Circle Girls, The Gospel Chorus, The Pastor's Aid Club, The Missionary Society, The Usher Board and The Junior Usher Board.

Reverend A.H. Banks, the third pastor, served two years and again the Reverend John Davis was called upon to administer mini-

sterial services. Reverend Charles W. Alexander, the fourth pastor, sought and found better quarters at 108 Clinton Street. Reverend Samuel Austin, young and newly ordained, moved the congregation to this present edifice, 655 Michigan Avenue. Reverend R. David Holloway, the fifth and present pastor, has served for twenty-two years. Under his leadership our sanctuary has been renovated, a baptismal pool installed, rooms in educational building beautified, four memorial, three state clubs and a mission circle were organized.

In 1973, under the leadership of the Trustee Board and its chairman, the late Mr. Aaron Allen, Sr., Pilgrim burned its mortgage on property at 655 Michigan Avenue. The Laymen's League invitation into the District Laymen Movement was also extended to Pilgrim. More importantly, many new members have united with us, and four young men have been inspired to enter the ministry. Reverends Asborn Taylor, Edward Abram, Eugene Pringle and Andre' Washington.

In recent years Pilgrim's stand in the community has increased with the Pilgrim Village Housing Corporation. This corporation, led by Mr. Eugene L. Pierce along with Jack-Tram Developers secured ninety units of small family housing! Construction of the apartments started on August 1, 1980 and is now completed and occupied.

Pilgrim has had many memorable trips:

- 1974 Second Timothy Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio
- 1978 Pastor visit to Holy Land
- 1979 Aeon Baptist Church, Rochester, New York
- 1980 First Baptist Church, Laurel, Mississippi
- 1981 Second Baptist Church, Erie, Pennsylvania
- 1982 First Baptist Church, Toronto, Canada
- 1985 Brown Memorial Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY

Out of the fold of Pilgrim has come several leaders in district, state and national associations. They are the late Deacon Cleveland Allen, the late Mrs. Ertie Hilliard, Mr. Joe E. Morrow, Mrs. Mary Morrow, Mrs. Freddie Staples, Deacon Robert Staples, Deacon James Watkins, Mrs. Grace Knox, Mr. Eligah Reed, Reverend Samuel Austin, Reverend Whitfield Washington and our very own Reverend R. David Holloway. "Ye Shall Know Them By The Fruit They Bear".

Let us dedicate ourselves to manifest the hopes and dreams of the pioneers of Pilgrim Baptist Church.

EVENING SERVICE

7:30 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies Dea. Robert Staples
 Devotion Greater Hope and Pilgrim Deacons
 Processional Greater Hope Choir
 Selection Choir
 Greetings Mrs. Grace Knox
 Acceptance Greater Hope
 Selection Greater Hope Choir
 History Mrs. Mary Morrow
 Reports Auxiliaries
 Offertory Finance Committee and Deaconesses
 Introduction of Speaker Rev. R.D. Holloway
 Special Music Greater Hope Choir
 Inspirational Message Rev. James Blackburn
 Invitation
 Remarks Leroy Williford
 Rev. R.D. Holloway

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Chairman Leroy Williford
 Co-Chairman Eugene Pierce
 Secretary Gwendolyn Hull

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairman Corrie C. Upshaw
 Co-Chairman Myrtistine Jordan
 Lela Copeland
 Katie Smith

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman Louise Hines
 Lillian Walker
 Lee Wyatt

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Chairman Aurelia Tinch
 Grace Knox

FINANCE COORDINATOR

Eula Boyd Eddie Mae Davis
 Gwendolyn Hull Dea. Frank Alexander
 Wilmon Brown Leroy Williford